

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kiss, and Delegates G. White, Amores,

Smirl, Kominar, Perdue, Cann, Varner, Browning, Beane,

Hatfield, Foster, Palumbo, Hall, Stalnaker and Wakim)

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance appoint an interim committee to study the silent epidemic of youth suicide in this state.

Whereas, Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 15 and 24 and the second leading cause of death for college age youth; and

Whereas, Each day across this country there are an average of 2,700 suicide attempts by young people between the ages of 12 and 17 and each week, approximately 100 hundred young people commit suicide; and

Whereas, In a survey conducted in West Virginia in 2000; one out of every five students in grades six - twelve, responded that they had "seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months," almost one out of three students reported that they had battled the start of depression in the past twelve months, almost one out of every six students had made a plan to commit suicide in the past twelve months, and one out of every fourteen students had attempted suicide in the past twelve months; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby requested to appoint an interim committee to study the silent epidemic of youth suicide in this state and make findings, conclusions and recommendations as a result of the study ; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2005, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the expenses necessary to conduct this study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.